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July 29, 1987

STAT [redacted]

Chief, New Building
Project Office, OL
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

STAT Dear [redacted]

Thank you for the copy of your letter of July 20 to Mr. Walter A. Hasty, Jr.

I take severe exception to the general tenor and to some of the specific statements in your letter. Let me enumerate:

1) You state: "But, based on my inspection and discussions with Mr. Silies and the architect and engineering firm that designed the changes, I am convinced that the contractor removed the vegetation because it was necessary to enable him to perform the required work".

This statement bothers me for several reasons i.e. you ignore the point we made at the July 17 meeting to the effect that none of your experts said anything about the necessity to remove the vegetation at our last meeting held at the McLean Center Library. To the contrary, your side gave us every indication that the fence could be installed without removing those 15, 20 and 25-foot mature trees. Secondly, the Monday morning I discovered that the contractor bull-dozed all those mature trees down I talked to the foreman on that job and he informed me that no one had told him those trees were to remain so he bull-dozed them down. That action clearly shows a lack of supervision by CIA and the State of Virginia and disregard for our agreement and for the community interest.

2) Your letter advises: "Nonetheless, both Mr. Silies and I appreciate the disappointment you experienced when the trees were removed, particularly when you were not expecting it. In this regard, I believe Mr. Silies has agreed to take action that will mitigate the impact of removing the existing vegetation."

Let me repeat what I said to you and Mr. Silies on July 17th, to wit, it was not disappointment to that unfortunate act of removing every one of those large mature trees - it was a devastating blow.

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Secondly, it is my firm recollection of that July 17th meeting that Mr. Silies promised to increase the number of 8 foot- white pines which will supplement other new vegetation of 1 and 2-foot height. The net effect is that we (the community) will be in the unfortunate position of viewing vegetation of one-foot over the seven-foot fence rather than what we had been led to believe would be mature trees of between seven, twelve and seventeen feet over the fence. That is not fair.

3) Your letter goes on: "At our 17 July meeting, Mr. Silies agreed to redirect some of the new vegetation (particularly some of the taller trees) from other locations along the wall to the areas behind your house and Mr. Shortley's house". I think the term you use "taller trees" should be defined. You are talking about approximately eight-foot trees.

4) Your letter also states: "In my view, Mr. Silies is making every effort to accommodate you without interferring with the design of the project. I am confident that he will follow through with the above actions and that you will be satisfied with the vegetation".

I have just one comment on the above and that is there is no way we can be satisfied when 15, 20 and 25-foot trees are bull-dozed down and replaced with one-foot, two-foot and 8-foot trees.

I should appreciate your comment on the above.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Shortley

STAT [redacted]

McLean, VA 22101

cc: Mr. Walter A. Hasty, Jr.
Mr. Donald E. Silies, II

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